

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
10:00 o'clock Friday, February 15, 1974

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed, I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery where we have 80 students of Grade 11 standing of Miles Mac - Donnell School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Sernyk and Mrs. Lowden. This school is located in my own constituency and on behalf of all the honourable members I welcome you here today.

Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports; The Honourable Minister of Health.

TABLING OF REPORTS

HON. SAUL A. MILLER (Minister of Health and Social Development) (Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker I wish to table the annual report of the Manitoba Department of Health and Social Development.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

HON. IAN TURNBULL (Minister of Consumer Affairs) (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a report compiled under section 13 in the Trade Practices Inquiry Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Tourism and Recreation.

HON. RENE TOUPIN (Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs) (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the annual report for the Manitoba Centennial Center Corporation, year ending March 31, 1973, including auditor's report and financial statements, and I would like to table the report for the Manitoba Horse Racing Commission, year ending December 31, 1973.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture) (Lac du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the annual report of the Manitoba Crop Insurance Corporation, year ended March 1973.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other reports? Ministerial Statements; Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills. The Honourable Member for Emerson.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MR. STEVE DEREWIANCHUK (Emerson) introduced Bill No. 22, an Act to amend The Law Society Act.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Questions - The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK Q. C. (Leader of the Official Opposition) (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, my question is to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources and Environmental Management. He has indicated in this House that certain guidelines have been set with respect to himself and the government and the Manitoba Development Corporation with respect to extension of loans or additional investment. I wonder if he can indicate whether the same guidelines apply to the Communities Economic Development Fund.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines and Resources.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN Q. C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management) (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions with the Communities Economic Development Fund relative to a set of guidelines, but they have not proceeded as far as the guidelines that have been talked about with the Development Corporation.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if the Minister can indicate whether the loans on the Communities Economic Development Fund are subject to approval at the present time of the government.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the regulations with regard to the Fund indicate that anything over \$75,000 the consent of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council has to be received; that's any amount over \$75,000. We have also indicated to the Communities

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(MR. GREEN cont'd). . . . Economic Development Fund that if they intend to advance money, make a second advance on a loan, which was not originally contemplated in the loan funding, that before doing so they get the approval of the Minister.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if the Minister can indicate whether the Minister or the Minister of Northern Affairs, the Minister of Industry and Commerce, have ever directed the Communities Economic Development Fund to make a loan.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I can speak for myself - I have never to my recollection directed the Communities Economic Development Fund to make a loan. We may have accepted a recommendation and approved the loan based on the recommendation of that Fund.

MR. SPIVAK: My question, and it's to the Minister of Northern Affairs, I wonder if he can indicate to the House whether he has directed a loan to be undertaken by the Communities Economic Development Fund or directed an extension to them.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable First Minister state his point of order.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere): Well, Mr. Speaker, my point of order is that when a question is directed to a Minister responsible for the administration of a given program, and a reply is given, it is not in order to ask yet another Minister who is not charged with the administration of a given program or fund or agency.

MR. SPEAKER: The point is well taken. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I'll direct the question again to the Minister of Northern Affairs. I wonder if he can indicate whether he has been consulted by the Communities Economic Development Fund in connection with loan applications and loan approvals to be made by the fund.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I have to indicate that I am the Minister to whom the Communities Economic Development Corporation reports, and that I have to accept responsibility for the activities of that corporation and have to answer for it.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to put the question to the Minister. I am not asking the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, I am asking the Minister of Northern Affairs whether he has been consulted. . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The question period is not a cross-examination period. An answer has been given to the question and I believe we should accept what a Minister in this House gives. The honourable minister state his point of order.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I appreciate the answer of the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources and I'm not in any way suggesting that it's not a proper answer with respect to the operations of the Communities Economic Development Fund. He is the Minister in charge. I am now, however, asking another question which goes outside of that particular sphere of questioning.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. May I indicate to the honourable member that it is against our rules to multiply, with slight variation, a similar question on the same point, and this is what the honourable member is doing. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question then is to the First Minister. I wonder if the First Minister can indicate to the House whether he has allowed a Minister other than the Minister in charge of the Communities Economic Development Fund to be consulted by the members of that fund before a loan is approved.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, obviously the key point here is the connotation to be given to the term "consulted". I understand the term "consulted" to mean a process of communication, and in that respect I would hope that the consultation has been as wide and broad and as open as possible.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, again to the First Minister. Has he allowed the Minister of Northern Affairs the opportunity to be consulted by the Board for an approval of a loan to be made by the Fund, the Communities Economic Development Fund?

MR. SCHREYER: In terms of communication, Mr. Speaker, the answer is a most emphatic yes, because obviously a good deal of information, attitudes and data collection, etc. must come forward before intelligent decisions can be made on anything.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

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MR. I. H. ASPER (Leader of the Liberal Party) (Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, to the First Minister, did the Government of Manitoba make a financial grant to assist in the construction of the Powerview Arena that collapsed a couple of days ago?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I believe that that particular project was, as many others in the province, at the municipal level eligible for a local organization PEP grant, and I believe such a grant was available and I believe received by the Local Municipality of Powerview.

MR. ASPER: To the Minister of Labour, Mr. Speaker. It relates to an answer that he said he would try to reach or get for us yesterday. Is it a fact that the Province of Manitoba, nor any agency of the Province of Manitoba, did not make any inspection at all, of any kind, as to the safety standards of the building that collapsed?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour) (Transcona): I am always amused, Mr. Speaker, with the prefacing of the questions of the Honourable the Leader of the Liberal Party: "Is it not a fact?" It is a fact that the Department of Labour and its inspection organization have certain responsibilities and I'm assured that they are being taken and being done to the best efforts that's possible; and also in reference to the matter of a report, I said yesterday, Mr. Speaker, that I was going to obtain a report on the collapse of the roof and I'm sure my honourable friend would give us at least a longer period of time than 12 hours.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. Does he know, and if he does could he tell us, was the building or was it not inspected by his Department, or the plans?

MR. PAULLEY: It takes a considerable amount of penetration to understand. I indicate to my honourable friend that that is being investigated and I'm awaiting a report.

MR. ASPER: Does the Minister have the information or could he tell the House whether the building that collapsed is a building similar to others and designed by the same firm where other roof collapses occurred in the past couple of years?

MR. PAULLEY: Surely to goodness, Mr. Speaker, that after I have indicated I'm having an inspection and am awaiting a report, if those facts are desired and are essential insofar as the report is concerned which I have promised to convey to the House, I think my honourable friend should be a little less impatient.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I have a question then for the First Minister. Has the Government of Manitoba received notice of any claims for financial or land settlements from the Manitoba Indian Nation tribes relating to settlement of claims arising from the original treaties?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, there has been communication over the past several months with respect to ways and means of obtaining an enlarged resource base for people living in treaty Indian communities, and some discussion has already taken place as between representatives of the Indian Brotherhood, the Province, and the Government of Canada, in particular the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Affairs.

MR. ASPER: To the same Minister, a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Is the nature of the discussion a claim by the Indian tribes, a legal claim for settlement of outstanding treaty issues?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, that question is obviously out of order.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, to the First Minister. Can the First Minister indicate how much money, or in terms of value in approximate terms, is involved in the claim?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of a claim per se nor is there any quantification of said claim.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Mines, Natural Resources and Environmental Management. I wonder if he can indicate to the House whether the Chairman of the Communities Economic Development Fund, Mr. Wilson D. Parasiuk, will come before the Committee on Economic Development.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I hope that will take place. It's intended in any event.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour going back to his earlier answer. While the Minister is looking for or developing an inspection report on the Powerview Arena collapse, would he also bring and table to this House a report on the collapse of the Darlingford Arena which occurred about two years ago?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if my honourable friend would repeat his question.

MR. AXWORTHY: The question is, Mr. Speaker: would the Minister of Labour bring to this House and table the report by the Department of Labour on the collapse of the Darlingford Arena two years ago.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I don't know if there was a report on that but I certainly would be glad to look into the circumstances of the collapse of that roof.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I was going to ask if the Minister, after the collapse of the arena and after he received a report from his Department, had the government given any consideration to changing its inspection techniques to inspect buildings before they collapse?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I have here a reply to a question that was asked by the Honourable the Member for Assiniboia relative to a series of power failures that occurred in or about the City of Winnipeg in recent months, and I can advise my honourable friend the following answer received from the offices of Manitoba Hydro, that during the period from December 1st to February 7th eight primary electricity service interruptions occurred, each of which affected more than 100 customers. The length or duration of outage, as it's called, varied from a minimum of two minutes to a maximum of four hours forty-seven minutes. Other minor outages occurred at individual customer premises due to freeze, conductor breakages, etc., but these were usually restored within a few hours.

The answer to the second part of the honourable member's question is that it is a policy of Manitoba Hydro to make a detailed investigation after each service interruption and, if required, to make the necessary design changes and/or changes in operating practice to ensure that as far as practicable similar outages will not reoccur. And then there's additional information which is too detailed, Sir, to put on the record. Verbally I would simply indicate to the Honourable Member for Assiniboia that if he wishes there is a list here of some eight or nine specific case interruption explanations.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the First Minister. Last year he announced, and I believe it was in this House, that a task force would be set up consisting of Mr. Marc Eliason as Chairman and Mr. Eric Kierans as a member, to deal with the question of the price Manitoba can expect for power sold in the United States. I wonder if he can indicate whether that task force has ever met and whether a report has been furnished to the government.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, there have been a number of meetings of that task force and there are still some relatively minor points upon which they must deliberate and we have not received a finalization of any report as yet.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if he can indicate whether Mr. Kierans was a member of that task force.

MR. SCHREYER: Affirmative.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the First Minister then can indicate that with respect to the negotiations with the United States that no price has been determined as yet, on the assumption of course that this task force has not in fact provided the information to the government.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, there have been obviously negotiations with Northern States Power; there are still some aspects of the area of study of the task force still to be concluded, but most of the - if not all, I believe - of the basic cost and financial data have in fact been treated and considered by the task force.

MR. SPIVAK: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, then I take it from what the Minister has said that the task force did supply the government with some information upon which the negotiations with the United States have to a large extent been finalized.

MR. SCHREYER: There has been no finalization, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Public Works.

HON. RUSSELL DOERN (Minister of Public Works) (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, with leave, I would like to submit the Annual Report of the Department of Public Works for the fiscal year of 1972 to 1973. (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. MORRIS McGREGOR (Virden): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct this question to the Minister of Corporate Affairs

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. GREEN: to bring to your attention that there is something wrong with your microphone - I don't know what it is but there is something wrong. We're getting a very blurred sound from you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. McGREGOR: Mr. Speaker, I direct this to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Why are our Hansards so far behind at this early stage of the session? It is usual when speed-up but not - we're almost a week behind in it. Some of it is --- for a week. . .

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Speaker, I believe that that matter is within your jurisdiction and not within mine.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. James.

SOME MEMBERS: Can't hear you, Sir.

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris): . . . question, Sir, for the First Minister, who takes the responsibility of answering those questions, because obviously a question cannot be directed to the Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, if the Honourable Member for Morris is in a sense posing a question, I would reply by concurring that there is obviously ministerial responsibility, but so far as staff is concerned relating to the transcribing and printing of Hansard, that is certainly to an extent in the domain of you, Sir, and to the Board of Internal Economy, so far as . . . if the problem, however, lies at the printing, that is to say with the Queen's Printer, then it would be the Minister of Consumer Affairs. Now to make matters short, Sir, we will have to check to see at which end of the spectrum the problem lies, if in fact there be a problem.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: I wonder if the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs could take the question as notice and give a reply to the House whenever he gets the answer.

MR. TURNBULL: Sure.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. McGREGOR: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, and if the Minister is taking this as notice then also when a speech is given in French here, I know you get the report a week or so later. Is it possible to come down in the same page as my learned friend to my left here, and I would like to know within a week or at the same time rather than a week later. I know you get it but you don't get it in the same page and the same issue.

A MEMBER: Up-to-date news.

MR. SCHREYER: Monsieur le President, il faut essayer toujours.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. GEORGE MINAKER (St. James): My question is to the First Minister. I would like to know if the First Minister has met with the City of Winnipeg official delegation to deal with the Winnipeg Hydro-Manitoba Hydro power purchase agreement, and also whether agreement has been reached.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the only way I could reply to that question would be to indicate to my honourable friend that there have been some tentative discussions. I expect that within a matter of one or two weeks that there may be a more formal meeting on that

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(MR. SCHREYER Cont'd). . . subject matter. No agreement has been reached to date.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. MINAKER: Supplementary question to the First Minister, Mr. Speaker. Has the First Minister received a report from the Manitoba Hydro recommending general terms of the agreement?

MR. SCHREYER: Not in any formal sense, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. J. PAUL MARION (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, thank you. My question is directed to the Honourable the Minister of Health and Social Development. Is the oral preparation tetracycline on the formulary list of drugs in Manitoba?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I believe it is but I will take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. MARION: My supplementary on the same matter, Mr. Speaker. Once he has ascertained if it's on the formulary list, I would like him to advise us whether or not he plans on removing it from this list inasmuch as there is a claim by a group of Montreal doctors that it is considered dangerous.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, from time to time groups of doctors or others as researchers have made claims certain drugs are dangerous and I suppose every drug, if abused, is dangerous. It is a drug that can only be prescribed by a doctor, it cannot be purchased without a prescription, and the medical profession I'm sure will have to examine this.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Charleswood.

MR. ARTHUR MOUG (Charleswood): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Highways. Is the Government considering construction of an overpass at Roblin Boulevard and the Perimeter where there has been a loss of several lives.

HON. PETER BURTNIAK (Minister of Highways) (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that all will agree that there are overpasses needed at many places but it's a matter of priority, it's a matter of money, and I think that in time we will have to look at all these locations and perhaps something can be done, but we're always considering these things from time to time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Charleswood.

MR. MOUG: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Would this overpass have priority over the government taking part in funding the McGregor overpass or the St. Vital-Fort Garry bridge?

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce. Can the Minister advise the House if the difficulties at Misawa Homes, are they production difficulties or are they financial difficulties?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I have indicated on several occasions that I am not going to be discussing the internal affairs of a commercial operation on an ongoing basis with honourable members in the House. The honourable member will have a chance to air such questions with the Chairman of the Manitoba Development Corporation when he appears before Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. Is the Minister or the Government for the MDC Corporation will be putting more money into Misawa Homes?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I've indicated again on several occasions that both the Misawa Japan and the Manitoba Development Corporation, which are almost equal investors in this corporation, are considering their present position vis-a-vis its future.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BOB BANMAN (La Verendrye): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Honourable the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Has the government had any correspondence with the Federal Government or the Japanese Government or others in connection with a uranium enrichment plant?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, subject of course to whatever correspondence the

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(MR. SCHREYER cont'd). . . office of the Minister of Industry may have had with the Government of Canada, I can advise my honourable friend the Member for La Verendrye that there has been correspondence in the past with the Government of Canada, with the Prime Minister's office, relative to the advisability of attempting to proceed with a uranium enrichment plant. I should tell my honourable friend that proceeding with such a plant does not have any enthusiastic support of the Government of Canada nor of the Province of Manitoba at this point in time. If my honourable friend is interested as to why, there are many reasons which I would be glad to impart to him.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines and Resources.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I have an answer for the Member for La Verendrye relative to the fire insurance settlement regarding Columbia Forest Products. There has been no settlement reached at the present time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the First Minister can indicate to the House the probability that a heavy water plant will be built in Manitoba.

MR. SCHREYER: That probability, Sir, is -- I can't quantify it in terms of percentage probability, but it is greater than the building of a uranium enrichment plant.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder then if the First Minister can indicate whether the knowledge of the Manitoba Government or to the department it is a fact that a uranium enrichment plant will be built somewhere in Canada but not in Manitoba.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, you know, again it's impossible to reply with precision and certainty as to the likelihood of a uranium enrichment plant being built somewhere else in Canada. I can only offer an opinion to my honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition that the likelihood of a uranium enrichment plant being built somewhere else in Canada is about as great as its being built here. In other words, it's not very great.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if the First Minister can inform the House that the discussions are in a final stage with respect to a heavy water plant in Manitoba.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, now we're back to heavy water plants, and in that connection I can say that yes, there are systematic discussions proceeding with respect to the time frame within which Manitoba could proceed with the installation of nuclear capacity and in time juxtaposition with the heavy water plant which would be built as a federal asset and operated by the Government of Canada.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, by way of supplementary, I wonder if the First Minister can confirm that the likely location for a heavy water plant would be close to Pinawa.

MR. SCHREYER: Well again in terms of degrees of probability, my honourable friend is right - if and when such an installation is to be constructed. The advice to date is that it is likely to be built somewhere in proximity to the Winnipeg River.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY ENNS (Lakeside): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. Would the Honourable Minister consider tabling the contract for the pork sale that is currently in effect with Japan?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member was in my position and was prepared and able to do so, I likewise would do the same, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ENNS: Will the Minister undertake to inform the duly elected members of the Hog Marketing Board the nature and the terms of that three year contract under which Manitoba producers are being asked to ship hogs to Japan?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, the reverse should be true. The Hog Board perhaps could inform my honourable friend and myself the nature of their agreement with Japan.

MR. ENNS: A supplementary question - Is he indicating that any members of the duly elected Manitoba Hog Marketing Board are aware of that information?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, again for the benefit of members opposite, and the media, there is no contract between the government of Manitoba and any purchasing agency with respect to pork, and--(Interjection)--

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member should know that marketing boards arrive at their own agreements in the marketplace. Governments have nothing to do with agreements.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Labour in connection with the questions he's taken as notice relative to the Powerview Arena collapse. I wonder if he would include in the questions he's taken the following:

Is the building that collapsed the same design as the buildings that have been used elsewhere in the province for similar purposes - skating arenas, and was the building design approved by the government or by his department or any other department of government - the general design, not the Powerview building but the general design that's being used? And is it correct that the collapse was caused in part by construction failures as opposed to design failures? And finally, is it a fact that the design, the company that designed and pre-fabbed these buildings, is financed by the Manitoba Development Corporation?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the questions asked by the Leader of the Liberal Party have already been taken as notice by my colleague the Minister of Labour, but in replying to part of my honourable friend's question may I say that the building in question was constructed under terms of the contract between the Incorporated Village of Powerview and the supplier distributor firm, whatever its name was, and that if in fact there is some reason for the Village of Powerview to take legal action they will have to decide, and there of course it is open to them under the law to do just that. But let it be clear to my honourable friend that that building was constructed in much the same way as any municipal asset - capital asset - is constructed.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, to the First Minister, is he then saying that if in his words "it was constructed much the same as other municipal buildings of the same kind" that this was inspected by the government of Manitoba as is required by law?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Labour has indicated twice this morning and on one previous occasion that he is having a full report summoned forth.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: I have a question for the First Minister, Mr. Speaker. In his capacity as the Minister responsible for Urban Affairs can he inform this House whether he has now received for consideration the revised Greater Winnipeg Development Plan, and what the procedure or process of the government will be in considering of that plan?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the question is rather general in what it purports to seek, and I can only reply in a general way that the plan when it is forthcoming will be considered in due course and an attitude by the province given back to the city in due course.

MR. AXWORTHY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Has the government received a specific request from the City to implement a New Development Guidelines and Land Use Controls in a zone 25 miles beyond an additional zone?

MR. SCHREYER: I don't believe so, Mr. Speaker, although it may be that it is enroute to the office of the Deputy Minister. I will have to check.

MR. AXWORTHY: Well, Mr. Speaker, again to the First Minister. Considering the impact that the New Development Guidelines will have on an additional zone and the proposal for this additional freeze 25 miles beyond, considering the impact this will have on contributing to rising land costs and housing costs, will this House have an opportunity to discuss or debate those particular issues or those particular proposals?

MR. SPEAKER: The question is hypothetical. The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I direct a further question to the Minister of Agriculture. I note from a press release issued by the Manitoba Hog Board as of Feb. 15, 1974, that Manitoba has exported more hogs in '72-'73 than the rest of Canada. My question to the Minister is: does this come about as a result of the fact that we're prepared to export them at a considerably lower price than anybody else in Canada?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I think the honourable member knows, and his posturing for the media, Mr. Speaker, should not detract from the point, and that is that the marketing of pork is strictly within the jurisdiction of the board.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I have a further question to the Minister of Agriculture. Is he satisfied that at the moment at least, the duly elected members of the Board are behaving in a normal manner, to use his own words?

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MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. I must indicate that is asking for an opinion of the Minister and I don't think that's necessary to our procedures. The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: I retract that question. I was wishing to ask a supplementary question, my question being: has he asked any duly elected member of the board recently for his resignation?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I have had no additional cause to do so.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable First Minister.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCES

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, pursuant to arrangements and agreement with all sides of the House, I would like to proceed with a condolence motion, and Sir, I would now like to ask honourable members to reflect on the memory of the late George Edward Olive who was a member in this Legislative Assembly from 1945 - 1953, and in that period of eight years he represented the constituency of Transcona and I believe with some constituency boundary changes in 1949, the constituency of Transcona-Springfield.

I had the occasion, Sir, to become acquainted with the late Mr. Olive, although not in a very intimate way, certainly in a way that certainly enables me to say that I knew him as one who, like so many others who have served in this Chamber, was a man who had an intense interest in public policy, public policy formulation. He came to this country as a young man and worked for some 40 years or thereabouts with the Canadian National Railways. He must have been immensely popular with his fellow workers at the Transcona shops and during the period of time that he was mayor of the Town of Transcona, which I believe was in the depression years of the 1930's, there are still stories that can be heard emanating from the community of Transcona from those who have been living there many years, as to the great personal generosity of the late Mr. Olive in terms of his trying so desperately as mayor and as a fellow citizen of that community to help some of the more desperately needy families living there in the depression to be able to tide things over.

Mr. Olive was a gentleman of the old school in many ways, but in other ways you could say that he was an innovator and a radical. He was of the political philosophy of Democratic Socialism, and I am sure that in the things he said and the way in which he voted on issues, that he tried his best to be true to his conscience in terms of his political beliefs and philosophies. The honourable my colleague the Minister of Labour was very closely and intimately acquainted with the late Mr. Olive, and I am sure will have observations to make.

And so, Sir, I move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Labour, that this House convey to the family of the late George Olive, who served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, its sincere sympathy in their bereavement and its appreciation of his devotion to duty in a useful life of active community and public service, and that you, Sir, be requested to forward a copy of this Resolution to the family.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, sometimes it is hard to reflect upon the contribution that one has made to the political life of a community or the province, and this is one of those occasions that I find it so, for I had many long years of association with George Olive. He was, as the Premier indicated, the mayor of the Town of Transcona during some of its toughest periods of growth and, as the Premier indicated, during the great depression this man and his family on many occasions split his earnings as a pipefitter in the CNR with those less fortunate than they were.

When war broke out in 1939 George was mayor, and in his capacity as mayor established an organization called the War Efforts Committee and organized the community into a real work force to aid our brothers and sisters who were engaged in conflict. He had the honour on one occasion to go down to Quebec and christen a ship called "Transcona". There was a story behind this, Mr. Speaker. The ship's bell after the war, after the war the ship was dismantled and the bell bearing the name of Transcona was confiscated by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and taken to their barracks in Regina. It took our united efforts about ten years to convince the RCMP that we had a prior claim on the bell than they did, and subsequently the bell was returned to Transcona and is now in our museum.

(MR. PAULLEY cont'd)

When George Olive was mayor, I think it would be of interest to members to know that another colleague of mine, the Honourable the Minister of Industry and Commerce, that his father was the right hand man to George Olive in municipal affairs. Mrs. Olive joined with Mr. Olive throughout their term in World War 11 and she too formed organizations in Transcona to assist many people.

When George decided to run for the position of Legislator in this Assembly, I had the honour of following him as mayor. I became mayor the 1st of January of 1946 following in George's footsteps. I was appointed his campaign manager and general agent for the eight years that he was a member here, and one of the toughest decisions I ever had to make in my political career, Mr. Speaker, was to accede to a request of a considerable number of people to seek the nomination as a candidate for this Assembly. I want to say that it was a hard decision to make but because of situations prevailing at that particular time I was prevailed upon to run, to seek the nomination, which I did; and it is interesting to me now to be able to tell the House that had one more vote been cast in favour of George Olive it would have been a tie vote and the chances are that I may not have been here because I may not have been the candidate.

But he was a man of outstanding quality. When a decision was made that we would have a contest for the right to run as candidate, George, in his typical upright and honest fashion said to me, he said, "Well Russ, we belong to a democratic party; we live in a democracy. Each has his choice. Good luck to you. If you win I'll be your agent, and if I win the nomination will you be my general agent?" And I said, "yes", and it was reciprocal. I happened to be the one that won and of course I'm still here.

The Premier mentioned, Mr. Speaker, that he knew George Olive. I think the Premier will recall the occasion when we both first met our present Premier. It was while we were on the campaign trail in the Transcona-Springfield constituency at a meeting in the Beausejour Town Hall. We wanted a chairman for the meeting and a fellow dressed in a baseball uniform sitting at the back of the hall was nominated and declared to be the chairman of the meeting, and that is the gentleman on my right. And so this is part of the history of a man who made a great contribution and I'm sure that when the history of Transcona is properly written up the name of George Olive will be outstanding, will be remembered by all. And it is honour for me, Mr. Speaker, to join with the Premier and colleagues in recognizing a job well done.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Official Opposition we would certainly wish to associate ourselves with the motion moved by the Premier and seconded by the Minister of Labour. To the best of my knowledge Mr. Olive was not known to anyone on this side of the House in any personal way although there may be some who have other reasons of remembering him. I wish just to take this moment to say that I find the particular practice and tradition that we pursue in moving these motions a particularly moving one. I don't know what honourable members think about in their moment of silence but the thoughts that certainly flash through my mind about the rather unique and special fraternity that we belong to that binds us in the public service in this way, and it's certainly in a sense that we, the Official Opposition, extend to the family, the bereaved family of George Edward Olive our condolences and recognition of the public service that he made to the people of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, it is with some sense of pride that the Liberal Party supports and joins in the motion by the First Minister seconded by the Honourable Minister of Labour that condolences to the bereaved family be expressed, and that we record the outstanding service of a man whom, as the House Leader, the Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party, has said we didn't have the pleasure of knowing him in the jousts and thrusts of debate but we count ourselves unfortunate in not having had that experience. In asking of our own associates in Transcona of this man to enable us to comment on the motion today, there was a universality of the respect in which his colleagues, his neighbours, his contestants held this man. The one common thread that ran through everybody who we talked to in searching for something to be able to associate with these motions today was that if there was one thing it was service, and that came ahead of everything, his family, his economic career, his social life, service. He was apparently - and I'm sure the Honourable Minister

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(MR. ASPER cont'd). . . of Labour will confirm this - a very dedicated public servant, servant, serving as Mayor as he says, and serving for eight years as a member of this House, because he treated that elective office as the highest calling that one could achieve in a lifetime. He treated it with the most profound respect.

Generosity; We've been confirmed that this was a very generous, an open-hearted man; a man of great loyalty and a man of great tenacity to a cause, and we understand and are happy to see it, it's a failing or a diminishing quality, his loyalty to a cause. He's remembered by his associates in Transcona particularly as a man who dared to be a very intimate member of a new radical political movement, the early days of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, dared to when it wasn't a popular thing to do, it wasn't a winning trend. But it was something that he believed in, something that he fought for. He was scarred by the social unrest of his time; angered by the wrongs that he saw and he sought to right. Mr. Speaker, I don't think one can say anything finer about a man but that he did dedicate a portion of his life whether it was 10, 16 years, a good portion of his life to that cause that he respected. And he is well remembered, well regarded and well respected by all political participants in Manitoba, and we have no hesitation in joining in the motion before us.

MR. SPEAKER: In accepting and agreeing to the motion of condolence would the honourable members please rise for a moment of silence.

MOTION carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I now come to the last of the condolence motions but obviously and needless to say by no means is the memory of the late John W. Pratt any less important than those of the other former members that we have spoken to the memory of in the past two days. John W. Pratt, MLA for the Constituency of Birtle between the years 1927 and 1936. I think it could be said that the late Mr. Pratt in many ways became in a way a legend during his own lifetime; at least that is how I view him because I suppose partly because I know of his contribution to the affairs of this province ever since I was a young child, never really had occasion to meet the late Mr. Pratt until 1969, at which time he was on in years perhaps 82 or 83 at that time. But I might be just permitted a moment of levity. There is the passage from the Gilbert and Sullivan Opera that every little boy and every little girl that is born is either a little liberal or a little conservative, and you can take that a number of ways but Mr. Pratt, the late Mr. Pratt, was one of those who helped to in a sense change that or cause to be inaccurate that couplet from Gilbert and Sullivan because, Sir, the late John W. Pratt, was one of those who helped to organize from square one, from zero, to the farmer progressive movement in this province and that movement was elected to office to form the government of this province in 1922 in a way that I think caused surprise to many including the Progressives themselves; and in 1926 John Pratt was elected himself as an MLA for the Birtle area of our province.

He came to this country at the age of 16 or 17 and a few years later enrolled in studies at the Manitoba Law School, was called to the bar in 1919, and articulated and later was junior partner in the law firm of the late -- I'm sorry -- Harold or Louis St. George Stubbs; and I would think, in fact I know from past conversations, that Mr. Stubbs was one of those who had some molding influence on the social ideas and attitudes of the late John W. Pratt. He certainly lived to a grand old age, well into his eighties. He was active in the community of Birtle, helping to organize the area's first systematic hospital district arrangement and organization, and was also mayor of the Town of Birtle. For all of those reasons I'm sure that he is one who will be long remembered in the community of Birtle, and I would like at this time to extend condolences to his surviving kith and kin, surviving family.

I move, seconded by the Honourable the Member for Birtle-Russell, that this House convey to the family of the late John William Pratt who served as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, its sincere sympathy in their bereavement and its appreciation of his devotion to duty in a useful life of active community and public service, and that Mr. Speaker be requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the family.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's a privilege for me as the representative of Birtle-Russell to second this motion, and I do so with pride and a certain sense of humbleness because I have known the late Mr. Pratt,

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(MR. GRAHAM cont'd) affectionately known as J. W., for many years.

I think my first recollection of Mr. Pratt was when I was a child in Grade One or Grade Two at school and Mr. Pratt made his visit to the school and at that time I was at the very impressionable age and there were two people that impressed me immensely at that time. One was the inspector of the school of whom we were apprehensive to say the least, and the other was the late Mr. Pratt who had a tremendous affection for children and carried that forward for many many years in his life.

I would like to think that J. W. very early in life learned the importance of apportioning his time and carried into active operation that principle and in doing so was able to make a total contribution, and a very valuable contribution to this province. While he was very actively involved in the affairs of this province as an MLA, at that same time he knew the importance of providing sufficient time in his busy schedule for his family, who had a tremendous respect for the fact that he would make time when his time was so precious. He also had the ability to apportion his time to this community in relationship to his total contribution to the province.

I think that Mr. Pratt being a progressive was probably one of the foremost legislators in trying to bring about order in the difficult times of the - what we refer to as the dirty thirties. I know having spoken to him on many occasions since I became a member of this Chamber, and prior to that, he has repeatedly told me some of the stories of the debates, which unfortunately are not recorded from that period, of the difficulties that occurred in trying to establish some semblance of security for those farmers of the day who were being threatened with the loss of their land at a time when incomes were drastically reduced because of worldwide economic problems. After he retired from politics Mr. Pratt then turned his attention in a more positive and forceful direction in the field of community activity; as the First Minister has already said, he was instrumental in the formation of the Birtle hospital district. His activities as mayor of the Town of Birtle and his involvement in the field of sports and recreation in that area are well known and chronicled by the people of that area.

And so, Mr. Speaker, it's with pride that I at this time second this motion of condolence.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, the Liberal Party joins in the motion and would observe that all of us in this Chamber have to feel some sense of sadness as we pay respect and offer condolences to the families of members from another era, and I'm speaking of J. W. Pratt in this case. Too many of our predecessors who occupied this Chamber like Mr. Pratt because of the fact that their times were different, the recording of debates wasn't a factor, they pass on without enriching our society and our history books with the personal accounts of their era. And certainly this is the case with Mr. Pratt. He was a man who was I think, as the preceding speaker said, a man who typified that era of reform, of depression, social unrest, of upheaval, turmoil. He spoke I guess of the in-between-years, the war years of the First World War to the Second World War and the depression, and was one of the sons of those who gave birth to the Progressive Party in this province. He was born into that environment as was the Progressive Party, and he was part of a group of - a group of great Manitoba patriots who were dissidents, but they were patriots - I'm speaking of the Garsons, the Millers, the Campbells - and we know too little--the Ivan Schultzes--some of the greatest people this province has produced; people who made Manitoba what it is today, who fought it through the moments of bankruptcy, of uncertainty, and who made the western cause the cause for colonization, the cause for development of the west their cause.

Mr. Speaker, it's with pride that we associate in the resolution, and express the regret that we will have so little of this era in our history books except as we record it in this Chamber.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines and Resources.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, it's rather unusual to have additional remarks on a condolence motion. I've never yet spoken on a condolence motion but I feel impelled to speak on this particular motion because the colleague, the departed colleague whom we are discussing, had a special place in my own thoughts and in my own constitution, and in my own political philosophy. Some time in 1969, or if I'm wrong in 1968, I was phoned by a gentleman who identified himself as Mr. Pratt, and he told me that he wanted to speak to me and that I should come to the Mall Hotel on Portage Avenue, and I don't know why I answered that call but there was something about the person who called which was different than the usual call and I just had to

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(MR. GREEN cont'd) by some type of compulsion see who it was. When I arrived there it was indeed a former colleague, he identified himself as an MLA who had sat in the House in the late 20s I believe, and early 30s, and he indicated why he called me - at the time we were involved in the Medicare debate - and he wanted me to know that he had been a chairman of a committee in the early 30s that had recommended for a comprehensive medical care program publicly financed. I'm not able to give the exact reference but I very quickly got a reference which either led to it or sprung from it. In the Journals of 1931 the Honourable Mr. Montgomery, a member of the Executive Council, laid upon the table of the House the report of the Department of Health and Public Welfare on resolution of Mr. Pratt. Agreed to April 8, 1930, relative to: (1) Preventive Medicine; (2) Municipalization of Medical and Hospital Services; (3) Logical Health Areas; (4) Health Insurance and other practical methods for the more equal distribution of the cost of illness; (5) Public Medical Services; (6) Practical methods for making special required methods of diagnosis and treatment in certain diseases more readily available.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that sometimes we tend to associate ourselves and modernity with certain ideas, and I think that the more we experience and the more wisdom, I hope, we acquire, we come to realize that we cannot be identified with such as individuals but that many of the things which we are discussing are universally growing ideals which really represent a total growth of human wisdom and manners of dealing with things.

After that particular meeting with Mr. Pratt I met him on several other occasions in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Birtle and also in Winnipeg, and I can say that that man is the kind of person who leaves his mark on society by virtue of creating a more equitable society than when he was born into the world; and I think that that is probably the ideal of each of us and is best emulated or certainly well emulated by the man who we are paying condolences to today.

MR. SPEAKER: In accepting and agreeing to the Motion of Condolences would the Honourable Members please rise for a moment of silence.

MOTION carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders for Return. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

ORDERS FOR RETURN

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Assiniboia, that an order of the House do issue, for the respective period of July, 1969 to January 31, 1974, a return showing of the following information concerning the Department of Health and Social Development as regards its aid and assistance to Family Day Care Centres, or agencies providing family care service:

1. The number of grants offered to each institution or agency each year.
2. The names of each institution or agency receiving grants.
3. The dollar amount of each grant given to receiving institutions or agencies.
4. The specific kind of grant given to each institution or agency and the purpose of each grant.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge again.

MR. AXWORTHY: I beg leave to introduce, Mr. Speaker, seconded by the Honourable Member from St. Boniface, that an Order of the House do issue for the respective period of July 1, 1969, to January 31, 1974 a return showing the following information concerning the Department of Industry and Commerce as regards its aid and assistance to private industry in the form of industrial incentives grants, aid or assistance.

1. The number of firms receiving such grants and/or assistance.
2. The names of these firms.
3. The dates at which each firm received its grant and/or assistance.
4. The dollar amount of grants, aid or assistance to each firm.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Industry and Commerce) (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, we're quite prepared to accept the motion although I'm a little leery about the definition of the word "assistance" because you know virtually every day there are many dozens of

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(MR. EVANS cont'd) firms and individuals who'll ask for assistance. A company who may ask for a freight rate tariff for example, you know, and this gets to be a little ridiculous so - and I would also mention that every firm for the last, I believe it's the last two annual reports of the department, every firm which receives a financial grant is listed individually and the amount is shown as well, although the date of the issuance of the grant is not shown. So some of this information is readily available if the honourable member wishes to obtain it, but within realms of reason we're quite prepared to supply as much information as we can.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed? So ordered.

The Honourable House Leader wish to proceed on Second Reading?

SECOND READING - GOVERNMENT BILLS

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, would you proceed with the bills now being held in the order in which they appear on the Order Paper.

BILL 2

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Bill No. 2. The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister in his explanation indicated that this bill is housekeeping, and certainly the change of name of the bill to take out the urban reference because the City of Winnipeg and St. Boniface are no longer really involved in this particular piece of legislation is correct. It is housekeeping and it is a change in name which is required. I'm not too sure what the change in name, whether it's right or whether it should be that or not, but I think we can discuss that in Law Amendments.

There are some questions that I would pose to the Minister in Law Amendments regarding the bill, and I'm sure that he'll have the explanations for us and if not we may have to make requests of some small amendments at that time. But, Mr. Speaker, it seems to be the habit of this government to give us a housekeeping bill which looks very very innocent and all of a sudden you examine it clause by clause and you find a clause in there that kind of raises your hair just a little bit, and the one that raises the hair on this side of the House in Bill No. 2, Mr. Speaker, is the one that says that we are going to set up more committees. We now have a provision within the present act that there would be a committee set up, chaired by the Deputy Minister and five other appointed members, who would receive out-of-pocket expenses. We now have that changed to committees - no designation of how many committees it would be; and we also now have the committees not receiving out-of-pocket expenses but we have them receiving remuneration which is to be set by the Minister, and the committees will be really appointed by the Minister, and I'm not really in favour of too many committees that will be between the municipal people of this province and the Minister.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the way that bill reads at the present time in the area of the section which is again setting up more and more committees at a cost to the people of Manitoba, and with no explanation of what the committees are going to do, and that the committees will be appointed by the Minister, and that the remuneration will be set by the Minister, whereas they only had out-of-pocket expenses before, is something that at this time we don't agree with, but at this time certainly we will ask very very many questions on that particular section of this bill.

And for some reason or other we get little bills that we get called housekeeping and, Sir, most of this bill is very common sense housekeeping that all of a sudden we have a situation where they can set up as many committees as they like, and this we certainly will have to question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. MARION: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well we too, Sir, upon scrutinizing Bill 2 couldn't find anything more than housekeeping until we started to delve a little deeper in some of the perhaps insignificant changes that appeared but could have very serious ramifications. I think that generally speaking we too will be exploring in greater depth some of the innocent looking changes that could have very serious consequences.

I think that perhaps we should comment on one of the items that struck particularly a note of discord and that, Sir, was the title of the bill itself which really drops a responsibility that we trust will be picked up by some other department, and I now allude to the fact that we're

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(MR. MARION cont'd) dropping urban development and part and parcel of the name of the bill and it's no longer referred to as anything but the Municipal Affairs Act. I trust that we shall not in any way neglect the importance of urban development not only in the areas of the City of Winnipeg but also in the other urban areas in our province. Surely that's of such an import that it must not be neglected.

I think that there is no doubt the intent in many of the bills that have been presented by the government, and so be it in this one, have been one where consultation and participation have often been referred to, and this of course makes a great deal of sense. It is therefore with a great deal of apprehension that we notice that we're limiting this participation, or at least it appears to me that we're limiting this participation, because there were some organizations in the previous bill prior to the proposed amendments that gave a great deal of credence to the Winnipeg Suburban Municipal Association, these organizations that by their very nature were fully aware and cognizant of the problems that were faced by municipalities and the urban development facet, and they are now set aside and play no role in bringing to the Minister the problems that are of reasonable consequence and most important to the various municipalities.

I think that it's important that the Minister insure that not only the Winnipeg Suburban Municipal Association but the others, the Manitoba Municipal Secretary-Treasurers Association, the Manitoba Board, or the Civic Service Board, can have the impact, can have the Minister's ear to bring to him all of the problems that are found in the day to day operations of municipal government.

I think that my colleague from Sturgeon Creek mentioned a problem that also is apparent to us and that is that now that the groups that I've mentioned will not be participating in the formulation of advisory committees but that the advisory committees, and I use committees advisedly because where there was one advisory committee there are now, or there can now be, a host of them; the discretionary powers of the Minister are such that they can lead to perhaps abuses, or perhaps pitfalls that he himself wants to avoid in the worst way. I think that when boards are set up it is normal that one will get as much information on the competence of people that he will place on these boards, and it would seem to me that the Minister would be well advised to reconsider dropping all of the organizations that could properly advise him in picking out the people that can really do the job for him on these advisory committees. I think that the Minister would realize the kind - if this does not happen - the Minister would realize the kinds of problems that he could be faced with and the kind of accusations that could be levelled at him whether they're justified or not; and I refer to patronage as being the basic one.

I think that to compound this problem, and again this situation was alluded to, you have the fact that not only are you paying out-of-pocket expenses and travel expenses but you're opening up the possibilities of salaries. And you can appreciate how this will accentuate the problem that I'm trying to raise to the Minister for his consideration.

There is a number of new terms, and I suppose that we can best explore those terms, the dropping of parts of terms, - I suppose we can explore the reasons for those when we are in Law Amendments and we can get the answers to them. I think that on first sight it certainly appears that they are merely modernizing factors and we're using the day's language rather than language that was prevalent many years ago.

I think that aside from those comments, Mr. Speaker, I think that we will reserve any further questions or debate on this bill at the Law Amendments Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister will be closing debate. The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. HOWARD PAWLEY (Minister of Municipal Affairs) (Selkirk): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I just want to mention two items so that my response can be weighed prior to committee meeting.

In reference to the question of number of committees, the reason for the reference to committees is such that at the present time we do have the regular meeting of the Advisory Committee which is made up of the Manitoba Urban Association, the Union of Manitoba Municipalities and the Secretary-Treasurers' Association of Manitoba. But in addition, from time to time we have done this on an informal basis, though not provided for in the Act, with payment of no fees, costs, etc. We have requested a person from each of those organizations to sit on a committee to deal with particular problems of the moment, and I can think of one in particular that gave me a great deal of input and that was the question of assessment of mobile

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(MR. PAWLEY cont'd) homes. This was a special committee which was set up which consisted only of representatives from the three organizations that I've mentioned, plus the provincial assessor, and as a result of those recommendations we were able to develop an approach to a sticky problem involving assessment. So it can consider the wording to this. The objective here that I have in mind is advisory committees which are made up of representatives of the municipal organizations plus people that are within the Department at a particular scope, ability in these particular areas, primarily the advisory committee but also from time to time special committees to deal with particular matters such as the one that I've related.

Insofar as restricting the cost to travelling and other necessary out-of-pocket expenses, I will take that under advisement. I am certainly very conscious of the need that a person receive full compensation for time lost from work, otherwise we have a situation where only the independent person financially would be able to participate in these type of committees, so I'm certainly most anxious to ensure that an employee having to take a day off from work receives equivalent to the wages which he has lost, a farmer equivalent to the costs of sometimes, possibly during haying and harvest period, obtaining substitute labour. As long as we have that sort of freedom I don't think, Mr. Speaker, we have any difficulty in respect to the area of remuneration.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The honourable member wish to ask a question? Very well.

MR. MARION: Yes please, Mr. Speaker. There is a terminology used and perhaps you could clarify it for me, Mr. Minister. Instead of "department" we are now referring to the Minister in the bill. Is there a specific purpose for that? Throughout. Rather than using the terminology "the department" - an employee of the department - we use "an employee of the Minister."

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. PAWLEY: No, I don't think there's any meaning in substance to that. That's purely a change that has been brought about as a result of recommendations from the Legislative Counsel, and I don't know whether there's any particularly strong reason for that change. It's a legal change. I would imagine he could in committee stage explain the rationale for it.

QUESTION put and carried.

BILL NO. 3

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 3. The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak in general agreement with the bill, in particular in that the amendments recognize that the local community should have some responsibility and authority in a local government district, and that the people of that area have some say in the development and in the planning of their community. I am, however, concerned that the bill does not include any detail with regards to what powers might be transferred to the local committees or whether there will be a standardization of those transfers from local government district to local government district, because I feel that if there is variation in responsibility from one local government district to another, that any benefits or goodwill which might come about of transferring of these particular responsibilities to a local committee might be lost or hurt from the very fact that one local committee in one district might have more say and more responsibility than in another, and I would hope that possibly the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs, in closing the debate, might discuss this matter or elaborate on it whether there are any guidelines that will be used with regards to a variation in transferring of responsibilities from one district to another, because I feel this could create a problem.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister will be closing debate. The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. PAWLEY: I would just like to briefly comment on the question that has been raised respecting the powers being transferred by Order-in-Council. Let me assure the House that I would prefer if we were in a position that we could very clearly define the particular powers that would be transferred to local government districts as a whole.

The one thing that we noted, I think, during our hearings is that each local government district was at a different stage of developing maturity, some comparable probably to a child growing up, some quite yet unable really to stand on their own feet; others able to walk; others able to run; and thus there was quite a variation from one to the other. No two, strangely

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(MR. PAWLEY cont'd) enough, you could say was--no two local government districts could really fall into any particular set pattern. And this is the reason for the request that we develop flexibility so that with those that are able to stand on their own feet to run, as an adult to get them into municipal status as quickly as possible, and certainly for instance in some of the mining communities, the industrial local government districts, very clear indication given: "We're ready to stand on our own feet; we are prepared to run our affairs just as Flin Flon, The Pas, or Thompson in northern areas. Give us that right." That was the message that I think came through very very strongly in several. So one would like to be able to do that, have the flexibility to do that.

There were others that said, "Now look. We want some more say, some more degree of responsibility, but we don't feel the message, we don't feel we're yet in a position to assume municipal status." And they would raise particular local concerns and problems that result in the need for consideration of different transfer of powers. So in view of that, there certainly has to be, I think, a different level possibly here of transfer of powers. There were others on the other hand that--well, I can recall one, strange as it may seem, you know, the nature of the human being, I can think of one--the Honourable Member for St. George is not here, the Minister responsible for public insurance--but I can think of a hearing within his general area that the message came through very clearly: "We don't want a change. We are happy and content as we are." They referred to the municipal tax load next door to them. They thought it was considerably higher than their own. They were fearful of moving towards self-determination in government and I was rather surprised to hear people say, "We're not concerned about this question of self-determination, the right to manage our own affairs. This doesn't concern us. The tax question is what is of worry to us."

I don't know, Mr. Speaker, how quickly one goes about to transfer these powers but I think obviously there's a wide variation one to the next in their preparedness to assume additional responsibility. I do not think that you can force power and responsibility on to an individual or a group of people before they are prepared to enthusiastically accept that responsibility, and for that reason I prefer a flexible approach rather than establishing some very rigid, defined set of rules.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. James have a question?

MR. MINAKER: Yes I have, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Honourable Minister would indicate whether it is the intentions to have a sort of an annual review of these responsibilities from year to year or some method of continuous reviewing of these responsibilities that are being transferred or considered so that as the district grows that possibly they will get additional responsibilities similar to other districts. Is this the intent?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. PAWLEY: I appreciate the honourable member's question. It's a good one. And I think it's very important that we attempt to provide a little bit more of an activist role in this respect than we have in the past by really getting out to the local government districts and discussing in detail their level of development, the powers and responsibilities that can be transferred to them, and encourage them to move further up the ladder than possibly we've been doing in the past. So in answer to the question, it would be the intent to attempt to promote the assumption of greater responsibility and power by different LGDs and to review those powers already given, and certainly to discuss in great detail with each individual LGD the scope by which they are prepared to assume these powers. I don't know we might even consider further on discussion as to whether or not further hearings might be of assistance. I'm not sure whether they would be of assistance or whether it should be done purely at the administrative level. Certainly the hearings were I think valuable input to us all to find out what the problems were, and now I think the next stage is to attempt to bring about that improvement in status and the techniques you mentioned certainly would be some of those used.

QUESTION put and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 4. The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the indulgence of the House to have Bill No. 4 stand. (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 5. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON (Rock Lake): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell I'd like to have this matter stand. (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 6. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

BILL NO. 6

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to peruse the bill. I am prepared to let it go to Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Any further discussion on the bill? The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister would want to close debate on this particular bill. There were some questions raised at the time.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell I felt raised two matters of concern yesterday, the first in respect to the area of remuneration, suggestion that the remuneration of judges sitting as Surrogate Court judges ought to be improved from that which it is at the present time established at the sum of \$2,500 in 1963. This is presently under review and I think that we'll be in a position to indicate very shortly an increase in this remuneration. The honourable member's comments certainly are well taken and received in this regard.

Secondly, I'm interested in the comments of the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell, and I'll be receiving some further input in respect to that area to ascertain whether or not that dollar sum can be revised upwards in view of various pressures of inflation and what not that have occurred during the period of time since that particular figure was inserted in the Act.

QUESTION put and carried.

BILL NO. 7

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 7, the Honourable Member for Swan River not being present.

MR. JORGENSON: May we have this matter stand? (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave of the House, this group is prepared to speak to that bill if we may. (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank members of the House for the leave they've granted.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I just have to indicate one caveat, that no amendments can be made because it stands in the name of another member.

MR. AXWORTHY: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we would first like to indicate that we have a general approval to the amendments being proposed to the Civil Service Act as introduced by the Minister of Labour, with some reservations, but we have a deep regret that the bill itself hasn't taken the opportunity to provide for what we would consider to be even more substantive changes in the Civil Service Act that are required at this time. Let me speak first, Mr. Speaker, to the proposals and the principle of the changes that the Minister has introduced.

As we have all recognized and as the debate over the past year has recognized, the central thrust of these amendments to the Civil Service Act deal with the question of the rights of the civil servants to participate in provincial and other elections. Mr. Speaker, we are on record in the past and continue to be on record that we feel this is, without question, an undeniable right that civil servants of this province should have. However, the bill itself contains some questionable definitions as to the nature of that participation and the principles it enunciates, I think, are subject to some ambiguity and to some confusion.

To begin with, Mr. Speaker, there is a principle in the bill which we accept, concerning the right of a civil servant, a provincial civil servant, to become a candidate. But the bill then goes on to indicate that if that person is fortunate enough to be elected to this Assembly, then he must resign his position in the civil service. Now, Mr. Speaker, I would bring to the attention of the House a matter which I think, we hope we'll have further debate and that is that the remuneration or return that is offered for public service in this Assembly is perhaps not as generous or as relevant as it should be in this day and age, and that it might provide a significant deterrent to the interest and willingness of people to offer themselves for public office if in fact they are faced with success also becoming a failure, or success leading to a severe decline in their income, particularly if a person is a family man who has made commitments to mortgages, who has other kinds of financial commitments. Then he must look at the fact that once he loses his total employment ipso facto on the day of becoming elected, he is faced with no income at all and perhaps, as we saw in the past session, going six months

(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) . . . without any income whatsoever until the session is called. That, Mr. Speaker, could act as a very significant deterrent to the interest of a public servant entering into an election.

There is also the other aspect of it, that there has been no complementary introduction of legislation related to superannuation or pensions that also pertain to the public servant who again is faced - if I read the Act correctly - that on the day of election he would lose his pension rights, his superannuation rights and other benefits which any person I think in this day and age is very concerned about preserving. And so if the government is interested in trying to encourage the act of involvement of people presently in the public service, then I would suggest to them, Mr. Speaker, that they take a serious look at this particular portion of the bill and see if it cannot be amended or changed to eliminate this major handicap or impediment, and I would provide for their reference that I consider to be an exemplary or model statement which was issued by the Great West Life Assurance Company last year for their employees, which said that a person not only should be encouraged to run and have the right to run in private industry, but also would be able to maintain some form of employment within that organization. Now it may mean that they will change that employment, but it wouldn't be in publicly sensitive areas or areas that might be subject to some compromise because of his position as an elected person; but the fact is the company would try to maintain him on some kind of standard. I think this is becoming an increasing practice in private industry where the person who is elected is not summarily asked to resign but in fact is given the opportunity to make some income to complement what he can make as a public servant, or, pardon me, as an elected official; and until the day comes when this province and this government and this House is prepared to offer the required indemnity and support for its elected officials, then I think the way this Act is now worded will act as a deterrent and partially oppose the very principle and the very objective of the Act itself. So I would like to bring that to the attention of the government that that is an obvious disqualification of this particular bill and one reason why we have a reservation to it.

There is one other reservation, Mr. Speaker, which I must bring to the attention of this House which bothers me a good deal, and that is the whole question that not only should the public servant be allowed to run as a candidate, which as I say we support, but also that he has a right to speak and write on behalf of a candidate - and there is the provision in the Act or in the amendment that he can do so as long as he doesn't reveal information that is privy to him as a result of his oath as a civil servant. Well very frankly, Mr. Speaker, I don't think that's workable. I don't see how in any way it is enforceable, and not only that but it would, I think, compromise the position of the public servant. We have established a very basic principle in this country that the public servant must be above or separated from the political process unless he makes a strict declaration to the effect. I have many provincial civil servants in my own constituency and I have spoken to them about this and they feel that that particular provision, they would prefer not to have it; they would prefer to be able to maintain their right to vote, and their right to support a candidate in the informal way, but to bring certain people out into the forefront and to try and say, ah well, this fellow has been a member of Management Committee and he's gone to work for a certain candidate; now as a member of Management Committee of Planning and Priorities Committee, he is privy to all kinds of information. Now to expect - I don't know how the government would expect some individual to somehow separate his subconscious or his mental processes so that the information he would glean as a result of his activity, would not be available to that candidate. I just think that that is unreasonable to expect them to try to do so, and it's unenforceable as a way of bringing it about. So I would suggest that we take a serious look in Law Amendments Committee to simply eliminating that clause from the bill, both for the protection of the civil servant, and I think also to protect the basic principle of maintaining some separation between the two.

So, those are the reservations, Mr. Speaker, that we have concerning the bill; one in relation to the financial deterrent we still place upon the person running as a candidate; and secondly this problem of allowing or enabling someone in the public service to speak and act on behalf of a candidate while still a member of the public service. We think that that would compromise him, or even the deputy minister or anybody.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to, if I may, just go one step further and take up the words of the Honourable Minister last night when he introduced this bill. He was very eloquent in many ways concerning the requirements for equal opportunities and how the government, the Provincial Government, as the largest employer in the Province of Manitoba has a right to take

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) . . . leadership in this question of equal opportunities for its own employees.

Well I was much encouraged by those words, Mr. Speaker, but then I immediately became discouraged because I didn't see any substance to those words in terms of the opportunity that the Minister had to bring about greater equal opportunities at the present time in this Act. I would like to bring to his attention, as I am sure he already knows and I hope his colleagues will transfer these words to him the report of the Task Force on Equal Opportunities in the Civil Service that was presented only a few months ago, which indicated in no uncertain terms that the present public service of Manitoba still suffers in many significant areas in terms of unequal opportunities for women, for physically handicapped people, for older people, and for disadvantaged minority groups; and they present unqualified evidence, Mr. Speaker, that those kinds of discrimination and unequal opportunities are still very much a part of the employment pattern of the public civil service. They provide extreme and well documented statistics to show that women, as one prime example, receive a median salary, somewhat 3 or 4,000 dollars less than males working in the public civil service; that the administrative support staff, the lower echelons of the civil service are populated 75 percent by women; that there is an equal way sort of no provision to recruit or select or encourage coming into the civil service physically handicapped people, or people of minority groups - and they point out I think that in proper comparison that there is nothing in our province or in other provinces that compares to the Equal Opportunities Act passed in the United States in 1972 which insures in a very distinct way. And that report goes on, Mr. Speaker, to encourage the Premier and his colleagues to undertake an action program where they will instruct deputy ministers, heads of commissions, directors of different agencies to establish basic guidelines for the equal opportunity employment of all kinds of people.

But this is the important point, Mr. Speaker, that comes to this Act that in this report - and I would like to quote from it - they refer to a report given by the National Civil Service League which says, "That one of the major jeopardies or handicaps in the implementation of equal opportunities and employment opportunities in the civil service is the fragmented nature of responsibility," and they specifically point to the fact that presently personnel and employment matters are now separated between the Management Committee of Cabinet and the Civil Service Commission, and I quote them and say, "That a major finding of these consultants was that the present bifurcated structure for personal administration makes for delays and some conflicts in the decision-making process in providing of services to operating department." In the consultants' view this reorganization that occurred in 1969 has weakened the personnel system by fragmenting what was once a centralized control into two units.

Well I would simply like to say, Mr. Speaker, that one of the essential requirements to provide for a more effective program of equal opportunity of employment in the public service of Manitoba, is to restructure and reorganize personnel matters into one agency, the Civil Service Commission and to take it away from the hands of Management Committee, where half of it now exists.

Now to begin with Mr. Speaker, I don't even really trust what Management Committee is doing in the first place because they are not subject to the same kind of open requirements that the Civil Service Commission is under this Act. We really don't know what management committee is up to all the time - that they can appoint temporary employees, casual employees, and so on, without the same kind of open disclosure of matters that is required under the Civil Service Act.

Secondly, that because of the fragmented nature we are totally unable to provide for that centralized leadership, that central direction to provide for better employment opportunities for women. And this task force report, Mr. Speaker, goes on to point out that there should be an equal opportunities officer attached to the Civil Service Commission, that they should have a separate budget and separate powers to provide for a specific program to insure that physically handicapped people, older people, native groups, minority groups, are brought into the public service in a more equitable basis.

But as that report points out, that can't occur as long as the division of responsibility is separated and fragmented because what the Civil Service Commission is trying to do may be totally opposed by the Management Committee. So you have got two heads, two different arms, trying to do the same thing, and that is simply bad management and it certainly impairs and

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) . . . significantly harms the ability of this government and of this Assembly to provide for what I think is one of the most important issues that we should face and that is the necessity to provide for more equal employment opportunities.

And so, Mr. Speaker, this group would like to go on record as regretting and deploring the absence in this proposed - that these amendments to the Civil Service Act of any specified effort to improve the equal opportunities for public service employees and for people in the population that should be brought in. It doesn't do it in a structural way and, to our knowledge, there has been no reaction by the government in terms of setting up the action program that has been proposed and outlined in their own task force report.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we hope that if it is at all possible within the process that this bill goes through from here to law amendments, that the government would be able to react, and at least to seriously consider the basic question of reorganizing and bringing back together into the Civil Service Commission the primary and full responsibilities for personnel matters so that it is able to undertake this very socially necessary and economically necessary requirement.

And we will simply say that we think at this stage the Government of Manitoba has a basic responsibility to the people to provide leadership in this question of minority rights and women's rights, and the rights of the physically handicapped, for work in the Province of Manitoba. If the province doesn't do it, one can hardly expect anyone else to do it. The opportunity was present, Mr. Speaker, in this bill, to take steps to bring it about. The opportunity has not been met, and we would hope that either in this bill, or in future bills at this session, we will be able to undertake what we think should be a priority concern of this Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: The bill will stand in the name of the Honourable Member for Swan River, agreed?

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): On indulgence of the House, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. PAWLEY: On behalf of the House Leader I would call second reading on Bill No. 9.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture isn't present. I'll carry on. Thank you. Bill No. 10. The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

BILL NO. 10

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, just before I make my few comments on this bill, I really must offer the government some sound advice. You know the treasury benches are absent - all are empty. I'm not one to make a great issue about this. I realize the responsibilities that Ministers of the Crown have concurrently with their responsibilities to this House. But, Sir, it really doesn't say much for the respect the government indicates when Ministers who have bills coming forward for second reading are nowhere near the House. It's a rather contemptuous effort on the part of this government, not only are they not here to answer questions, legitimate questions that have been raised by individual members, but also there is of course, always the possibility that some particular contribution, perhaps the one just made, in the preceding bill might have indeed have been of some benefit to honourable members opposite. You know there have been occasions when a government has listened with some - with an open mind to some of the remarks made by members opposite.

Well, Mr. Speaker, as I say, it's not my position to normally make a special note of this. As a former Minister of the Crown I am well aware that there are other responsibilities that Minister have. But, Sir, the empty treasury chairs before us are just too many for us to not notice and indeed, Mr. Speaker, I think it must cause you some concern in terms of the manner and way in which the normal business of the Province of Manitoba can be conducted in this House.

Mr. Speaker, my comments on Bill No. 10 will be brief. It's not my intention to delay the passage of this bill. I really, merely wanted to serve notice that it would be my intention at the committee to raise a particular matter and so that it cannot be then said that I did not feel this concern at second reading of this bill, I want to make that particular point at this time.

I find it somewhat ironic that over the years when the question of colour, and so forth, was of paramount interest to people both in the urban segment of our society or the rural people who were more directly involved in the production of butter, that the question of colouring, additives, you know, was a hotly debated issue. Now when we are moving in this Bill, Bill No. 10, to, I believe the actual words of the Minister were to simply remove the colour bar,

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(MR. ENNS cont'd) . . . which of course is somewhat misleading. It gives the intention that we're de-emphasizing colour; what we're doing is making it possible to colour it whatever way the manufacturers wish to colour it. And I say it is somewhat ironic because I think that the remarks made by the Honourable Member from Portage the other day, while dedicated more to the subject matter of the way white bread is manufactured in this country, nonetheless he raises valid points. I really think that we have in the ensuing 15 or 20 years come to another concern, generally in the food industry, and that is the use of additives of whatever description. You know I quite frankly ask myself whether or not, you know, whether or not we shouldn't be concerning ourselves about banning the use of colour per se in a great number of our foods. I don't know, Mr. Speaker, but I intend to raise the question with the Minister and perhaps with some of the technical people that will be available to the Minister, or industry representatives that may come forward at the law amendments, at the committee stage of this bill.

I find, I think, a growing number of consumers are prepared to eat jam that's maybe not quite as rosy red as it is with artificial colouring put into it, but rather accept it in its natural strawberry or raspberrystate. I am prepared to eat butter or margarine in the way that it was produced, either as a product of a vegetable oil seed product that has been through a manufacturing process or as it came from the udder of the cow. I find that I think, Mr. Speaker, that this position probably has significantly more support in the general population than we as legislators are aware of. As all too often is the case we sometimes tend to be behind the times. Even this progressive government is behind the public in their reactions. So I merely pass on these remarks about the question of colour as such in our food stuffs.

What we are doing with Bill 10 is allowing really the manufacturers to add more colour or to add colour of the kind that they think they like to add or want to add, whatever fits their advertising campaign. I'm suggesting, I'm suggesting really, Mr. Speaker, that really - at least it has come to my attention that more and more people look a little bit more, scrutinize that product, that package, that can; they are a little more concerned, particularly when they see the words "artificial, artificial flavours added, artificial colours added, artificial preservatives added, artificial this and artificial that added. And I'm suggesting that we do the consumer no service in saying that he will only buy that product if we make it, you know, a bright bright blue, or a bright bright yellow, or a bright bright red, with the aid of artificial colours to help merchandise that product, you know, or make that product a more attractive one from a merchandising point of view. I suspect that if we gave the opportunity for the consuming public to you know, not to become embroiled in the old margarine debate as such - I don't think there is any issue there on that basis. But I think there may be an issue that we're sidetracking completely, and that is one of to what extent should we be adding artificial additives to our foodstuffs at this particular time.

Mr. Speaker, with those few comments, certainly concurring with the comments made by the Honourable Member for Rock Lake earlier as to the position of our party, we look forward to seeing this bill in the committee stage of the House and would not delay its progress any further.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Crescentwood.

MR. HARVEY PATTERSON (Crescentwood): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to say that I certainly support the bill. It's something that has been needed for a long time; it's something that, especially the housewives of our society have certainly requested and I'm sure that they'll be supporting the bill in this House.

I just want to take a somewhat different view than the Honourable Member for Lakeside took and I really think that he's out of step with the times. Because today colour is the fashion. We're getting more colour TV all the time.

MR. ENNS: You don't have to eat it.

MR. PATTERSON: It's going wild. People are buying it like it's going out of style you know. He mentioned the progressive government on this side of the House, and I certainly agree with that, but by the mere fact that he mentions the colour is not too important just goes to show you how unprogressive that that side of the House might be. So in that term I would suggest to the Honourable Member for Lakeside that he do a little bit of surveying amongst the housewives of Manitoba and really find out what they're in support of. I know that when margarine was white and we had the little bubble in it and we used to have to break the little bubble and mix it with our hands, and that type of thing wasn't too nice to do because it usually

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(MR. PATTERSON cont'd) . . . ended up that some of us had to do the colouring. And I can well remember, and I'm sure the Honourable Member for Lakeside can, when we used to make butter on the farm in the old plunger crock. You know we used to add colour then.

MR. ENNS: We never. No, no.

MR. PATTERSON: You know we did and it was more palatable; it seemed to go down a little better. And I also can remember, Mr. Speaker, when we used to use lard on our sandwiches to go to school; we couldn't afford butter. But, you know, I for one certainly like the coloured butter and whenever I made the butter, mother put a little colouring in the jar, well I'd always try to slip a little more colouring in because I like the colour and I certainly support legislation in this day and age when we're going to get the colouring in the margarine, and I think that it should be made - the colour should be as close to the natural product as we can get it, or to the natural trend of what the people want, and I think that the experience in the margarine field will soon determine the level of colour because if Blue Bonnet sells a little better with their colour than some other type, then certainly Blue Bonnet will prove that their colour is the better and the others will soon follow suit.

So just with those few remarks, Mr. Speaker, I am supporting the bill 100 percent.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, since the Minister is not here I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rock Lake, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 11. The Honourable Minister isn't present. Bill No. 12. The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

BILL NO. 12

MR. EINARSON: Well, Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Gladstone gave the views over here on this side in regards to the amendments to this bill but I am not going to be long on my comments because, Mr. Speaker, I really wanted to register a protest that has some, I think, significance to the amendments to this bill. And I think, Mr. Speaker, I have to take you back to the last session to explain my point that there is just a possibility had this government been, I think, a little more reasonable we might have had another veterinary clinic in the Province of Manitoba that would have been affected by the amendments that we are dealing with at this time. The clinic I am referring to is one that we'd have like to have seen established at Cypress River. And last year the group that were organized to pilot that project fulfilled all the obligations under the Act. And as you know, Mr. Speaker, we have a commission established whereby the applications go through that commission, and we were given to understand by the Minister that it was turned down and the decision was unanimous. And you know, Mr. Speaker, because of the events that have taken place in recent months in the Department of Agriculture I regret to say that I have lost complete faith in the Minister and the way he is operating. I have - not that I can say for positive's sake, that that decision by the commission I was told, and I have no way of proving it because of the way things are operated in the department, that the decision was not unanimous.

However be that as it may, Mr. Speaker, a brief was presented to the First Minister, and now I'm going to relate this to the First Minister because I hold him totally responsible. That brief was presented to the First Minister with the support of all the municipalities involved, the Town of Glenboro which is incorporated and the central region. And I remember asking questions to the Minister as to what he was going to do about it. And I know it took several days before I finally got an answer from the First Minister that the decision was made by the Minister of Agriculture and that commission, and it rests there. In other words what I'm trying to say, Mr. Speaker, is that the First Minister refused to see a delegation from the Cypress River area in which I indicated to them that this was a last resort in our democratic system of government.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I want to register a protest on behalf of the people of that area in the Rock Lake constituency who because of the way in which they were treated, and particularly by the First Minister, they don't become involved in the amendments that are implied in Bill No. 12.

Mr. Speaker, this is the main reason I chose to rise to speak on this bill. And I hope that we'll get the answers because one of the things that interests me - and I can't help but feel

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(MR. EINARSON cont'd) . . . that there is a possibility that there's a good deal of politics in this one, and we've been accused too often on that side by playing politics on this side, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about for making further grants . . . possibility in areas where there's going to be more than one veterinarian, and the question was asked of my colleague, the Member for Gladstone, as to how many areas or veterinary clinics were going to be involved in this amendment.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to just give a few brief comments on the honourable member's statement. I just wonder if the Minister of Agriculture, and I'm sure he can very well defend himself in respect to this, had seen fit to intervene or interfere into the affairs of the commission by dictating that the vet clinic would be located in one particular spot, Cypress River, rather than in another, if the honourable member would not on that type of occasion would not be the first to rise to his feet to accuse the Minister of Agriculture of in fact ingesting politics into the commission hearings. The commission, as I understand it, is a body that's been set up deliberately to ensure, to safeguard, that decisions such as this will be made on the basis of criteria established, the number of livestock in a particular area. I know that the Minister of Agriculture has had some difficulties in respect to this program because of difficulties in getting municipalities to come together and to jointly agree where the most obvious choice for a vet clinic is within a particular area. So surely it involves local decision-making and then recommendations to the commission that ought to make those decisions.

I would say to the Honourable Member from Rock Lake that the Premier is the door - I've found delegations - sometimes I think he is excessively open to people seeing him. Certainly not as the honourable member attempted to portray, because I don't know how a single human being in the nature of our Premier is able to see so many people with their problems and wants as he is able to see them. One need only look at his appointment book for any particular day to see how jammed full it is. But to meet on a matter such as this where we do have an independent commission would only seem, it would appear to me, to imply to those that would be coming in in the delegation that in fact there was a chance, a possibility, that the Premier or the Minister of Agriculture would wantonly and deliberately interfere in the operations of the commission. I don't think the honourable member for a moment would want that to happen.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Virden, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

BILL NO. 13

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 13. The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L.R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, fundamentally there is no wide-ranging objection that we have on this side to Bill 13 insofar as it goes, but we do question the matter of whether it goes far enough, Sir, in the area of requirement where professional boxing and wrestling cards are sanctioned and held in Manitoba.

I recognize that much of the bill concerns itself with redefining the activities of boxing and wrestling insofar as legislation is concerned, and separating the wrestling exhibition from the professional boxing contest and that probably is a timely kind of differentiation to make. To that extent the bill is valuable; these amendments are worthwhile.

But, Mr. Speaker, we had thought that in the wake of the tragedy that occurred in February of 1971 in the Winnipeg Arena at a professional boxing card that there might have been some stronger amendments to the Boxing and Wrestling Commission Act forthcoming from the government and I find that the amendments proposed at the present time do not offer that kind of an improvement. There was considerable dismay and considerable concern expressed on this side of the House, and indeed on the government side of the House, and in the sporting fraternity generally and among the public generally after that fatal fight on February 21st I think it was of 1971 when a Toronto boxer was killed as a result of the beating that he took on that particular card. There were some other aspects of that particular fight

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) . . . card that were equally questionable and suspect; the concerned allegations by some of the judges that two or three of the fighters on the card took dives, in the parlance of the sport, and had not made conscientious and legitimate efforts to fight according to the rules and the demands that the paying customers would make of them.

As a consequence of that and the whole conduct of the card and the tragic results of it, there was a special commission of inquiry of course and substantial investigation was undertaken. But apart from that absolutely legal approach to the events, the general public and the sporting community, I think, made widespread expressions and widespread inquiries of their own into just the kind of measures that might be developed and introduced in the future to prevent that kind of circumstance and there has been wide hope on the general public's part I think that there can be implemented in the future safeguards against that kind of unfortunate happening. The amendments to the Boxing and Wrestling Commission Act which are contained in Bill 13 now before us don't seem to me, Sir, to come to grips with that problem.

One of the basic complaints that all of us in this Chamber I think had at the time of the fatal card, to which I've referred, was that the fighters who were participating in that card were not forced to undergo any specific medical examination which would have determined whether or not they were in proper physical condition to enter into those fights. There may have been some cursory medical examination but I recall very well, and I've been checking the record to make sure that I am not off base on the allegation, Sir, I recall very well that all of us were concerned that there had not been a clinical medical examination made on those fighters, at least not one that would satisfy the Boxing and Wrestling Commission, the sporting fraternity, and the public at large. I would hope that the Boxing and Wrestling Commission which operates under the aegis of this Act, and the Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, would now be instructed by the Minister that it's incumbent upon them, and indeed expected of them, that before any such card is held in the City of Winnipeg, or in the Province of Manitoba, that proper medical examinations be carried out on the fighters participating. I think we're concerned specifically here with boxing rather than with wrestling because as the Minister himself pointed out yesterday they do fall into different categories of entertainment and there are not likely to be the potential injuries, fatal or of any serious nature in wrestling that there are in boxing. So it's primarily the professional boxing cards, indeed amateur and professional boxing cards, that we're concerned with here. There is potential for great physical injury unless proper medical examination of the fighters is carried out and unless the Boxing and Wrestling Commission is satisfied that the fighters about to participate have passed those medical exams and met the highest requirements of them.

The unhappy and tragic circumstances of February, 1971, resulted I think in substantial part, Sir, from the fact that such a practice of proper medical examination had not been either demanded or followed.

So the aspect of the bill that, or the amendments to the Boxing and Wrestling Commission Act contained in Bill 13 that arrests my attention most vividly, Mr. Speaker, is one of omission. It's this absence of any kind of specific reference to safeguards that can be taken and indeed must be taken in the future to protect participants in boxing cards insofar as it's possible to protect them from fatal injury. Perhaps it's the Minister's intention to deal with that kind of potential problem in another way and if that's the case then I'm sure we can be satisfied on that point but - and the Minister has just asked me if I'll accept a question, and I will, but I just want to make the point that the bill really undertakes housekeeping and a housecleaning job insofar as terminology is concerned but lacks teeth in that area.

I have some other comments I want to make, Mr. Speaker, but the Minister has asked me if I'll entertain a question.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, would the honourable member agree that in separating your responsibilities between the--between professional boxing with, say, wrestling, that a lot of the protection that he's seeking here could be had through regulations allowed under the Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Yes, I would agree with that, Mr. Speaker, and if that's the intention of separating the two categories of sport then I subscribe to that separation and I think that's a wise step to have taken because it is necessary that these protective measures be enforced, and if they can be done so under regulation, and specifically geared to boxing, then I would

(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) . . . agree with that and support that intention.

Mr. Speaker, there remains another aspect of the subject of concern to me, and that is the matter of communication between the Minister and his Boxing and Wrestling Commission; and I would like to recommend to the Minister that he undertake a program of fairly regular communication with his commission and its members as a means of keeping on top of the events in the field over which he has jurisdiction and preventing insofar as it's possible difficulties from cropping up and developing into crisis situations. --(Interjection)-- One of the members is one of the Minister's trainers. Well, that should open up opportunities for communication that will help meet this problem and resolve it successfully, Mr. Speaker. This was one of the difficulties I think that existed before the Minister, the former Minister for many reasons, perhaps some of them good, perhaps some of them not fully explained, failed in my opinion - and I'm not saying anything here that I haven't said to that former Minister in this House - failed to maintain a proper communication with the Boxing and Wrestling Commission and was not really fully conversant at all times with what the commission was supposed to be doing; the commission as a consequence felt that neither had the knowledge of, or the full support of the Minister in its responsibilities. So my recommendation at this point, Sir, would be to the present Minister to maintain as close a liaison as he can with those commission members. You can't expect to have the dedication and the commitment of the commission members in meeting their responsibilities if they feel they neither have the interest or the understanding of the government, and of the Minister itself. There's an unfortunate human tendency in all of us to let things slide until a crisis arises, and this is what happened in my view in February of 1971 that the situation was one where the commission really was operated rather in a vacuum, rather in the dark, nobody knew much of what was going on in the commission offices; the commission members themselves were not apprised fully of their responsibilities, and then suddenly we had a crisis with that death in the ring. That kind of thing is all too frequent unfortunately because of the human tendency, as I've said, to let things slide until the crisis is upon us. I think that that can be avoided in the future, Mr. Speaker, with a liaison and communication between the Minister and the members of the commission, and I'm glad to see the Minister nodding his head and assuring me that he will do his best to maintain that communication.

The important thing here, as in any area of responsibility I think, Mr. Speaker, is to let the commission do its job, and demand that the commission do its job, and expect the commission to do its job, and not undermine it in its attempts to do its job; to be conversant with what it's supposed to do; to let the commission know that you as the Minister are conversant with what it's supposed to do and then let the commission do it. If there's meddling, an interference, then the responsibility drops between the two poles and it's at that point that questionable boxing cards take place and unfortunate occurrences result.

So with that kind of friendly suggestion to the Minister, and with the limited sort of criticisms that I have voiced at this juncture, Mr. Speaker, I would say that we're prepared at this stage to let the bill go, to let it go through second reading, and we'll look perhaps for further examination of these particular areas of interest at committee stage and on third reading.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Boniface, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The hour is 12:30; we have also reached the end of the number of bills. I am now leaving the Chair to return at 2:30 p.m.